

## Energy Alternatives Topic Of Discussion

Two speakers presented solar and water options for energy production at the Republican Town Committee's second meeting on energy alternatives last Wednesday.

Mansur Johnson, of Alternative Directions in Energy and Economics Inc., discussed large ocean grazing plants that would, through a desalting and thermal difference procedure, produce large amounts of electricity.

Ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) has the capacity, Johnson said, to generate five times the amount of continuous power than is required of direct solar installed capacity. In other words, to provide 100,000 kilowatts of

baseload electricity (100 megawatts), a 100 megawatt OTEC plant could do what 500 megawatt solar energy can do, he said.

OTEC doesn't require extensive land use, Johnson noted, and could also produce fresh water, and by-products of ammonia and hydrogen. On a smaller scale, homes could be heated via OTEC by way of fuel cells or by hydrogen gas lines through mains in the street, he said.

Edward Allen, of Allen and Mahone architects and an MIT architecture professor, presented three solar alternatives — huge sun reflectors, satellite solar power stations, and solar homes — which could

successfully capture the sun's rays for home heating.

The first two alternatives, Allen admitted, will probably not prove feasible as large energy collectors because of the diffuse form in which the sun's rays reach the earth. A good use for the sun, conversely, he said, is for low intensity use which could be

applied to individual homes through proper house construction.

A passive system, one that Allen has seen work from first-hand experience, would require a home built with large windows on the south side. Dark floor surface, insulation, and properly placed overhangs would ensure

enough heat from the low sun in the winter and protection from too much heat in the summer when the sun is high in the sky.

Such construction Allen estimated to cost \$10,000 more than those of regular house construction and would complement convention home heating systems.

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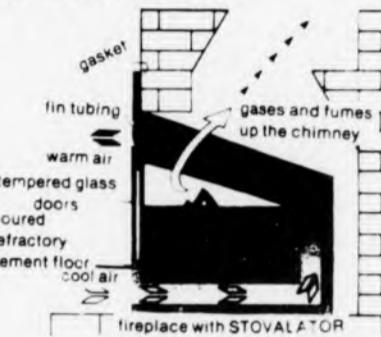
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